Review of buffer stock policy

†996. SHRI NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry proposes to review the country's buffer stock policy; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge of foodgrains and Government have suffered heavy losses on account of the damaged food stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Buffer stock norms are reviewed every five years.

(b) As on 1.10.2003, the stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) was 236.68 lakhs tonnes against the buffer norms of 181.00 lakhs tonnes. As on 1.10.2003, there was a stock of about 1.05 lakhs tonnes of damaged foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India and this constitutes 0.44% of the stock of foodgrains held by it on that day.

Subsidy of foodgrains

997. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have to incur a sum to the tune of Rs. 27,000 crore as subsidy on foodgrains during 2002-03;

(b) if not, the actual amount thereof and whether it is also a fact that this amount also include Rs. 5000 crore reserved for the export of foodgrains; and

(c) if not, the amount thereof and the quantity of rice and wheat sold by the Food Corporation of India for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH

†Original notice of trie question was received in Hindi.

MAHARIA): (a) to (c) During the 2002-03 a sum of Rs. 24,176.45 crore was released as subsidy on foodgrains by the Government of India. Out of this Rs. 5,742.69 crore was released for export of foodgrains during the same year.

The quantity of rice and wheat sold by the Food Corporation of India for export (including direct export by State Agencies) during 2002-03 was as under:

(in Lakhs MTs)

Rice	80.72
Wheat	67.93

Starvation due to drought and flood

998. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy in consultation with the State Governments to ensure that starvation deaths are not perpetuated by disasters like drought and floods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for providing relief in the affected areas in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of CRF, which is contributed by the Government of India and State Governments in the ratio 3:1. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support.

The approved items of assistance in the wake of natural calamities include gratuitous relief, supplementary nutrition, assistance to small and marginal farmers, assistance for additional requirements for employment generation, assistance to fishermen, assistance repair/ restoration of damaged houses, provision for a temporary accommodation,